

IV. B. 17. National Wildlife Refuges

- a) **Background.** The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 established Federally owned and managed areas for: (1) the protection and conservation of fish and wildlife which are threatened with extinction, (2) wildlife ranges, (3) game ranges, (4) wildlife management areas, and (5) waterfowl production areas. This wildlife sanctuary system was intended to work in harmony with numerous related ecological and recreational purposes such as the fruition of migratory birds, marine mammals, endangered and threatened species, bird watching, etc.

Colorado presently has four designated National Wildlife Refuges.



Monte Vista
National Wildlife Refuge

Proposed Rural Development actions in or near National Wildlife Refuges merit special evaluation because of the types of resources they contain which are covered by other Federal environmental legislation and executive orders such as: (1) the Endangered Species Act, (2) the Bald and Golden Eagles Protection Act, (3) the Migratory Bird Conservation Act, (4) Executive Order 11990, "Protection of Wetlands", etc.

- b) **Governing Regulations.**

- (1) Federal.
 - (a) National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966.
 - (b) Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956.
 - (c) Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929.
 - (d) Federal Policy and Management Act of 1976.
 - (e) Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.



- (f) Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1979.
 - (g) Clean Air Act of 1970, as amended.
 - (h) Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972.
 - (i) Refuge Recreation Act of 1962.
 - (j) Wilderness Act of 1964.
 - (k) Solid Waste Disposal Act of 1965.
 - (l) Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands.
 - (m) U.S. Executive Order 11514, Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality.
 - (n) National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. 4321.
 - (o) Title 7, Part 1b and 1c, Code of Federal Regulations, U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Environmental Policy Act.
- c) Policy. As large numbers of people settled into the rural areas of Colorado and manmade water resources projects altered the ecology of traditional wildlife habitats, an urgent need to set aside and manage places for wildlife, particularly waterfowl, was realized. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers a complex system of marsh and water resources projects on federally owned lands to provide nesting, feeding, and resting areas for migratory birds. Farming and grazing projects are also administered to provide food, cover, and production habitat for a variety of wildlife.
- Rural Development should not authorize, fund, or carry out any proposal or project which would adversely affect the unique values and benefits of designated National Wildlife Refuges. Whenever a proposed action is determined to have the potential for impacting a National Wildlife Refuge, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should be consulted as early in the environmental impact analysis process as possible to evaluate the possible consequences and protection requirements concerning the action.
- d) Classification.
- (1) Designated National Wildlife Refuge.
- e) Agency Jurisdiction: The primary contact agency is the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). Confer with the appropriate FWS Refuge Manager for the specific National Wildlife Refuge of concern:



- (1) U.S. Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Alamosa-Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge
Refuge Manager
P.O. Box 1148
Alamosa, Colorado 81101

(719) 589-4021

<http://alamosa.fws.gov>

U.S. Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge
Refuge Manager
P.O. Box 457
Walden, Colorado 80480

(970) 723-8202

<http://www.r6.fws.gov/refuges/arapaho/index.html>

U.S. Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge
Refuge Manager
1318 Highway 318
Maybell, Colorado 81640

(970) 365-3513

<http://www.r6.fws.gov/refuges/browns/index.html>



f) Location of Resource. Three National Wildlife Refuges are presently designated within the State of Colorado at four actual locations:

- (1) Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge (Alamosa unit).
- (2) Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge (Monte Vista unit).
- (3) Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge.
- (4) Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge.

g) Other references.

- (1) L.L. Bean. "*Outdoors Online*":

(This commercial web-site actually contains information on about any wildlife area in the United States)

Alamosa-Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge:

<http://www.llbean.com/parksearch/parks/html/15322gd.htm>

Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge:

<http://www.llbean.com/parksearch/parks/html/15321gd.htm>

Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge:

<http://www.llbean.com/parksearch/parks/html/15323gd.htm>